

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 PRS-01 /020 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:JCHAMBERLAIN

APPROVED BY PA/M:MHNOBLE

S/S- MR. MOFFAT

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

PA, S/S, S/PRS

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O 271818Z NOV 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 556

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT ROWLAND EVANS/ROBERT NOVAK OP-ED COLUMN, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, WASHINGTON POST, HEADED "WHY IS DONALD RUMSFELD IN CHINA?"

2. AS BLUE MONDAY DAWNED GRAY AND RAINY THIS WEEK, HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT ENERGY OFFICIALS HAD ONE CONSOLATION TO EASE THEIR WORRIES: DONALD RUMSFELD, WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF, WOULD BE BACK FROM THE ORIENT TO HELP MAKE PRESIDENT FORD COME TO GRIPS WITH THE ENERGY CRISIS.

3. THEY WERE WRONG, MR. FORD RETURNED FROM VLADIVOSTOK, BUT HIS CHIEF OF STAFF DID NOT. WITHOUT ANNOUNCEMENT, RUMSFELD ACCOMPANIED SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER TO PEKING. WITH THE WHITE HOUSE POLICYMAKING MACHINERY GUMMED UP IN A TIME OF NATIONAL CRISIS, THE MAN SUPPOSED TO PUT IT IN ORDER WON'T RETURN UNTIL SATURDAY. "IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU GO FISHING FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS," ONE DISCONSULATE OFFICIAL TOLD US.

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4. RUMSFELD IN CHINA ADDS MIGHTILY TO YEAR-END DISTRESS HIGH IN THE GOVERNMENT. THE ASTONISHING FACT IS THAT MR. FORD HAS NOT YET RECEIVED A FULL-SCALE BRIEFING ON THE ENERGY CRISIS, PERHAPS EXPLAINING THE LACK OF A DOMESTIC

ENERGY POLICY AT THIS LATE DATE AND MR. FORD'S STUBBORN OPPOSITION TO A GASOLINE TAX. THE REALISTIC, TOUGH-MINDED RUMSFELD HAD BEEN COUNTED ON TO REMEDY PRECISELY SUCH SITUATIONS, BUT HE, TOO, IS PROVING A DISAPPOINTMENT.

5. NOWHERE HAS THE FORD ADMINISTRATION BEEN MORE INEPT THAN IN FAILING TO SHAPE AN ENERGY POLICY BASED ON BOTH INCREASED PRODUCTION AND DIMINISHED CONSUMPTION. TO ACCOMPLISH THE LATTER THERE IS RARE UNANIMITY AMONG POLICYMAKERS AND TECHNOCRATS FAVORING A 20-CENT GASOLINE TAX. "WE ALL AGREE," CONFIDED ONE TOP OFFICIAL, "EXCEPT ONE MAN: THE PRESIDENT."

6. ALTHOUGH MR. FORD'S REITERATED DISAGREEMENT HAS ALWAYS SEEMED POLITICAL IN NATURE, OFFICIALS BELIEVE THE UNDERLYING REASON STEMS FROM HIS FAILURE TO UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR DRACONIAN MEASURES TO PREVENT THE COLLAPSE OF THE WEST. HE SIMPLY HAS NOT RECEIVED THE FULL BRIEFING, AND NO WONDER. ONCE THE TIME-CONSUMING ECONOMIC SUMMITS WERE FINISHED, TWO MONTHS AGO, THE PRESIDENT JUMPED INTO HIS FRUITLESS POLITICAL BARNSTORMING.

7. AFTER THE ELECTION, HE WAS OFF ON HIS LARGELY CEREMONIAL MISSION TO JAPAN, KOREA AND VLADIVOSTOK. WHILE PRIVATELY QUESTIONING HIS WISDOM IN FLEEING WASHINGTON WITH POLICYMAKING IN A SHAMBLES, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS WERE EVEN MORE UPSET THAT MR. FORD TOOK RUMSFELD WITH HIM.

8. WITH RUMSFELD AT THE PRESIDENT'S SIDE VISITING TOURIST SHRINES IN KYOTO, THE CHIEF OF STAFF'S AIDES BACK IN WASHINGTON WERE TOO INSECURE TO ALLOCATE SUFFICIENT TIME FOR FRANK ZARB, THE NEW FEDERAL ENERGY ADMINISTRATOR, TO GIVE MR. FORD THAT FULL BRIEFING THIS WEEK. MOREOVER, THANKSGIVING, CHRISTMAS AND MR. FORD'S ANNUAL SKIING VACATION IN VAIL, COLO., ARE COMING UP. ACCORDINGLY, ENERGY OFFICIALS EAGERLY AWAITED THE SIMULTANEOUS RETURN OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESIDENT AND RUMSFELD ON MONDAY.

9. BUT IN VLADIVOSTOK, A WHITE HOUSE AIDE TOLD US, KISSINGER ASKED RUMSFELD TO ACCOMPANY HIM TO CHINA. MR. FORD READILY AGREED IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA. CONSEQUENTLY, STUNNED OFFICIALS HERE WERE ASKING MONDAY: WHAT IN THE WORLD IS "RUMMY" DOING IN CHINA?

10. FAIRLY OR NOT, HIS PRESENCE THERE BUTTRESSED GRUMB-  
LING IN ADMINISTRATION CIRCLES THAT RUMSFELD, A MAN OF  
INTELLIGENCE AND COMPETENCE, MAY BE TOO AMBITIOUS FOR THE  
NOXIOUS JOB OF PRESIDENTIAL CHIEF OF STAFF. THESE CRITICS  
ALSO VIEW HIM AS A KISSINGER ALLY AGAINST SECRETARY OF  
DEFENSE JAMES SCHLESINGER AND, CONVENIENTLY, AN ASPIRANT

FOR SCHLESINGER'S JOB.

11. WHETHER OR NOT RUMSFELD TRULY THIRSTS FOR THE PENTA-  
GON, THERE IS A RISING DEMAND IN THE ADMINISTRATION AND  
AMONG CONGRESSIONAL REPUBLICANS THAT HE AND THE PRESIDENT  
GET DOWN TO BUSINESS--BY STAYING HOME, FOR OPENERS. SOME  
HIGH OFFICIALS FEEL MR. FORD SHOULD FOREGO HIS ANNUAL  
SKIING VACATION TO CONNOTE A SENSE OF URGENCY TO THE NA-  
TION.

12. EVEN IF HE INSISTS ON GOING TO VAIL, THERE SEEMS NO  
EXCUSE FOR MR. FORD TO AVOID A PROLONGED ENERGY  
SESSION WITH ZARB. THE ONLY POSSIBLE TIME ON HIS SCHEDULE  
FOR THIS VITAL ENTERPRISE IS FRIDAY (ALTHOUGH AN APPOINT-  
MENT IS NOT PINNED DOWN AT THIS WRITING). TIME IS SHORT  
IF A LONG-DELAYED DRAFTING OF A DOMESTIC ENERGY PROGRAM IS  
TO BE PRESENTED TO CONGRESS IN LATE JANUARY.

13. OFFICIALS DESPERATELY WANT THE PRESIDENT TO FACE THE  
SUBSTANCE OF THE ENERGY CRISIS. SINCE THE OTHER OPTIONS  
OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS AND A CRUDE OIL TAX WOULD MEAN EVEN  
HIGHER FUEL BILLS FOR THE HARD-PRESSED NORTHEASTERN STATES,  
ENERGY OFFICIALS STILL THINK MR FORD--ONCE HE TRULY  
UNDERSTANDS THE SITUATION--SHOULD REVERSE HIMSELF AND EM-  
BRACE THE OFT-REJECTED GASOLINE TAX.

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14. PRESS SECRETARY RON NESSEN TALKS ABOUT HOW MUCH MR.  
FORD ENJOYS BEING PRESIDENT, BUT ENERGY-WISE OFFICIALS  
WANT HIM TO MAKE THE JOB LESS ENJOYABLE BY STAYING IN THE  
OVAL OFFICE AND BELATEDLY MAKING TOUGH ENERGY DECISIONS  
AFTER NEARLY FOUR MONTHS IN OFFICE. IN SHORT, THEY WANT  
JERRY FORD TO CONFRONT REALITY. BUT SUCH HOPES ARE STUN-  
TED BY THE FACT THEIR PRESUMED ALLY IS ON AN UNREAL  
JOURNEY HIMSELF IN THE FORBIDDEN CITY. END OF TEXT INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 NOV 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974STATE261759  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JCHAMBERLAIN  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t1974116/aaaaaezu.tel  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN PA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 NOV 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13 NOV 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESS MATERIAL  
**TAGS:** OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)  
**To:** PEKING  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005